

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PANAMA 04755 031427Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 IO-13 MCT-01 /088 W
-----010592 032119Z /75
R 031419Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7800

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 04755

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PN
SUBJECT: JOURNALISTS DEFEND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

REF: PANAMA 4644

1. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED "CRITICA" AND "MATUTINO" OF JUNE 28, IN FRONT-PAGE ARTICLES, CARRIED THE TEXT OF A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF JOURNALISTS, PROTESTING RECENT "ATTACKS AGAINST THE PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION." ALLUDING TO SEVERAL INCIDENTS, THE STATEMENT PROTESTED:

--"ACTS OF AGGRESSION AND THREATS" AGAINST PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CAMERAMEN (POSSIBLY REFERRING TO AN INCIDENT INVOLVING A "LA ESTRELLA" PHOTOGRAPHER WHO, DURING PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT, WAS UNABLE TO SHOOT CERTAIN CROWD PHOTOS);

--THE "EXTREME SANCTIONS" IMPOSED ON RADIO COMMENTATORS BECAUSE OF THEIR APPARENT OMISSION OR VIOLATION OF GOVERNMENT DIRECTIVES (A REFERENCE TO THE BARRERA CASE, REPORTED REFTEL);

--THE ARREST OF JOURNALISTS FOR ASSUMING THEIR OWN DEFENSE WHEN THEY ARE VICTIMS OF ATTACKS BY THE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PANAMA 04755 031427Z

AUTHORITIES (AGAIN REFERRING TO BARRERA); AND
--THE "PHYSICAL AGGRESSION" PERPETRATED AGAINST BUILDINGS IN WHICH PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA OPERATE (PROBABLY REFERRING TO A ROCK-THROWING ATTACK AGAINST THE RADIO STATION, RADIO MIA, SEVERAL WEEKS AGO BY A GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED WOMEN'S GROUP).

2. BALANCING THE CHARGES AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, THE COMMUNIQUE GOES ON TO CRITICIZE THE MEDIA AS WELL. IT EXPRESSES THE ASSOCIATION'S CONCERN OVER "THE ABUSE OF THE PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA, ESPECIALLY RADIO STATIONS,...TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE COMMUNITY." THIS REFERS TO A NUMBER OF RADIO COMMENTATORS WHO HAVE ENABLED DISSENTERS TO AIR THEIR VIEWS OVER RADIO AND WHO, IN SOME CASES, ARE VETERAN CRITICS OF THE GOVERNMENT THEMSELVES.

3. EXACTLY WHAT IS BEHIND THIS DECLARATION IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR. HOWEVER, IT SEEMS TO BE AN ATTEMPT BY THE ASSOCIATION OF JOURNALISTS, INFLUENCED BY THE LEFT (ALTHOUGH LESS SO THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS), TO STAKE OUT ITS CLAIM IN A CHANGING POLITICAL SCENE, PERHAPS IN THE HOPE OF PROTECTING ITS MEMBERS FROM THE KIND OF GOVERNMENT PRESSURE REPORTED REFTTEL. JORDEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PANAMA04755
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780274-0683
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780799/aaaadfwl.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 44d07c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PANAMA 4644
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2127120
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOURNALISTS DEFEND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/44d07c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014